

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Roland Long Jr. on 5/3/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A block made of solid wood or pressboard for the construction of a solid wall by staggered stacking, the block comprising:

an upper face and a lower face and two opposite ends; a pair of flanges on the upper face and a pair of grooves on the lower face for the assembly of the block by tongue and groove joint, a longitudinal axis of the flanges on the upper face and a longitudinal axis of the grooves on the lower face facing each other two by two on the same vertical axis, a diameter of each groove is greater than a diameter of the flange in the same vertical axis;

the upper face comprising an upper bearing surface located within and delimited by adjacent interior edges of the pair of flanges;

the lower face comprising a lower supported surface located within and delimited by adjacent interior edges of the pair of grooves;

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a splined tongue and groove joint at each of the two ends, parallel to the wall facings and perpendicular to the upper and lower faces, for a symmetrical assembly at the two ends of the block; at each splined tongue and groove joint, a group of two countersunk holes perpendicular to the upper face, passing through the block up to the lower face and located on an axis that is parallel to the flanges and between the latter, in the same longitudinal axis as the splined tongue and groove joints; ~~and~~

means for screwing or nailing inserted into each of the countersunk holes at a depth equal to at least one third of the thickness of the block; and

wherein the flanges and grooves present a profile in a semicircle.

Claim 40 (Canceled)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALP AKBASLI whose telephone number is (571) 270-5348. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30am to 6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on (571)272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635

/ALP AKBASLI/
Examiner, Art Unit 3635